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LETTER DATED 30 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention that, with a view to further advancing the peace process and to achieving a genuine national reconciliation, the President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, on 20 March 1998 promulgated the Law Granting Special Status to the President of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), Mr. Jonas Savimbi, as the leader of the major Angolan opposition party.

The promulgation of this law, passed before by the Angolan National Assembly (Parliament), falls under the application by the Government of its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol.

Under tne new law, the UNITA leader will have appropriate political intervention in Angolan national life, enjoy all rights inherent to his role, including legal guarantees, protocol, treatment, personal security and others, provided by the Constitution.

The law, which entered into force as of the date of its promulgation, is valid until the conduct of the next general elections in Angola. It follows other steps given by the Government over recent days pursuant to the implementation of the Peace Accords, namely, the legalization of UNITA as a political party, the appointment of UNITA cadres to governorship and vice-governorship portfolios, and the request of the necessary agreements for six UNITA members to be named as Angolan ambassadors.

I request that the present document be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM 'MBINDA'
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-08568 (E) 300398